

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee**

Minutes of 8/21/07, 7:15 to 10:00 PM, Town Hall Annex 1st Floor Conference Room

Minutes submitted by Laura Wiener

Members and Associates Present: John Bean, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Paul Conroy, Jeff Maxtutis, Scott Smith (partial, by phone), Ed Starr, Laura Wiener.

Members of the Public Present: Ed Schwartz, Barbara Goodman, Marlene Rockmore, Paolo Marinelli

1. Public Comment. Ed Schwartz of Robin Hood Road, reported that speed bumps had been installed on his street, a private way, and wondered if the TAC could advise him on their appropriateness. Ed responded that the Town does not have much authority over private ways. He asked if it might slow down emergency response time, and Lieut. Conroy said he would talk to the Fire Chief about it.
Marlene Rockmore of Perkins Street requested that the sidewalk on the north side of Eastern Ave. near Brackett School be replaced. It is in very poor condition. John said he would look at it, but also noted that there is very limited funding for new sidewalks, and this request would be competing with areas near schools that have no sidewalks at all.
2. Administration.
June 26 minutes approved unanimously. August 2 Special Meeting minutes approved unanimously.
Correspondence was reviewed. Regarding email from Janice Still, Ed will send to Selectmen. Regarding outstanding Voted Actions list, Ed and John will work on a format that John finds more useful.
3. Westminster Update. First set of improvements are done. Increased enforcement is also underway. Lieut. Conroy wants to wait to look at data from traffic measurements before making changes. Discussion followed regarding how to accomplish the addition of a traffic island at the Lexington line that would make it more difficult to get onto Westminster at high speeds. Arlington would probably have to fund it, with the approval of Lexington government and area residents. Elisabeth will continue to work on this with John and Paul.
4. Ravine/Irving Discussion. Jeff and Ed submitted draft recommendations, including no parking on west side of Ravine St between Gray and Irving; additional drop off parking on Academy, replace and update other signage. Laura noted that the leases for the tenants at the Parmenter School are up this year, and suggested that parking improvement could be incorporated into the request for proposals. It was suggested that tenants could be asked to provide a parking plan for their employees. No vote was taken.
5. Safe Routes to School. Barbara Goodman asked about the status of the program. Ed reported that 3 elementary schools have participated, but others have not responded to initiation by a TAC member. Barbara suggested some publicity on the Stratton improvements might get people interested, and also contacting the School Councils.
6. Town Day. Ideas for Town Day booth were discussed, including maps where people could indicate parking and sidewalk problems. Scott will get bus schedules and Zipcar info. Ed will send out list to sign up for staffing the booth.

7. Parking Update. Scott has recommended some policy changes for parking, primarily in residential areas. Laura noted that the Planning Department is also looking at parking, primarily in commercial areas, from a zoning perspective—how much parking should be required of developers, encouraging shared parking and remote parking. Discussion about parking enforcement and if it should be improved. Scott proposed a 2+ month period to study parking and make recommendations to Board of Selectmen.
8. Mass. Corridor Update. The contract is still awaiting approval of Mass. Highway, but has made it over an important hurdle (auditing). Approval is anticipated by the end of September. DPW and Planning Staff are meeting with FST on Friday 8/24 to put together a schedule. Planning Staff has 2 proposals for Phase 2, but needs some help to evaluate them. Jeff said he would help, and also suggested Tony Lionetta.
9. Downing Square Options. There is \$300,000 in the '09 capital budget for improvements to Downing Square. The TAC might hire a consultant to do some planning before that time so that we are ready to start construction when the money becomes available. Jeff thought \$25,000 to \$30,000 might be needed to get a concept and recommendations. John said he would explore possible sources of funding.
10. Thorndike Field Parking. Ed and Jeff met with the Recreation Commission. Problem is inadequate parking at peak times, and circulation of cars. It can be difficult to exit the lot when it is very full. Preliminary budget seems to be over what has been allocated. Laura suggested looking into using new lot for commuter parking, charging similar price as Alewife garage, and using money to offset construction costs. Paolo Marinelli suggested users be educated about street parking opportunities in the area between Mass. Ave. and the bike path.
11. Dallin. Jeff reported that DPW is installing improvements currently, and things are going well.
12. Paolo Marinelli spoke about 2 concerns. First he requested that the rugosa roses in the Mass Ave island near Library Way be removed. Trimming is not sufficient. John said he would look into it. Paolo also noted that changing streets to single side of the street parking may increase driving speeds on those streets.
13. Town News. Laura reported on study of Alewife area, initiated by Cambridge and part of State Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Laura will bring a summary to the next meeting.
14. Meeting adjourned at 10:00.

Handouts:

- Ed's Meeting Package: Agenda, 8/21/07, Minutes of 6/26/07 and 8/2/07; Correspondence from Boston MPO dated July 24, 2007, memo from Marie Krepelka dated August 15, 2007, re. Stratton School Area Recommendations, email from Janice Still dated Aug. 6, 2007 re. Crossing Park Ave., Active/Planned TAC Projects (8/21/07), Board of Selectmen Requests (8/21/07), Outstanding Voted Actions, (8/21/07), Town Day 2007 sign up sheet and suggestions; Memo to Board of Selectmen re. Ravine/Irving/ Academy, undated; "Thoughts re. Parking System", dated 7/19/07, "Most important

school sidewalks for construction?"; Memo from TAC to Board of Selectmen re. School Transport Improvement at Stratton School, dated August 13, 2007.

“Downing Square Process and schedule”, August 21, 2007

“Summary of [Parking] Recommendations, August, 2007